

NARA-NGC-2019-000123 has been processed with the following final disposition: No Records.

December 14, 2018

Sai Zai  
MuckRock News Dept. MR 63299  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144

**RE: Freedom of Information Act Request NGC19-095 and NGC19-096**

Dear Sai Zai:

This is a response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 19, 2018 that we received in our office on the same date via FOIAonline. We assigned your request the above internal tracking number in addition to a FOIAonline tracking number NARA-NGC-2019-000123. You also submitted a duplicate request on the same date via FOIAonline, but the duplicate request had no letter attached to it. We assigned the duplicate request an internal tracking number NGC19-096 in addition to your FOIAonline tracking number NARA-NGC-2019-000122. This letter responds to both requests.

The letter that you attached to one of your FOIAonline submissions is addressed to the Social Security Administration, not to the National Archives and Records Administration. We believe that you contacted us by mistake via FOIAonline. In your request, you ask for:

1. The entire Open Access Death Master File, in native electronic format, as defined in 15 FR 1110.2.
  2. All records relating to the fulfillment of this request, such as FOIA logs, documentation of searches, referral emails, etc.
  3. All records relating to any complaint(s), FOIA request(s)/appeal(s), and/or Privacy Act request(s)/appeal(s) made by me.
  4. All versions and parts of a responsive record, including metadata, and all claims of exemption.
- You also asked for a mandatory declassification review of any classified records.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the repository for documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by agencies of the Executive branch of the United States Federal government. We estimate that less than 5% of these records are retained permanently for legal or historical purposes. Federal agencies usually transfer their permanent records to NARA between 15 and 30 years from the date of creation, but we receive some types of records later than 30 years after date of creation.

The records you are seeking are too recent to be in our legal custody. They are most likely in the legal custody of the Social Security Administration (SSA), and you should file your request with their FOIA office. Please visit their FOIA website at [ssa.gov/foia](http://ssa.gov/foia). Although, SSA does participate in FOIAonline, they do not accept all types of requests via that portal. We encourage you to review their FOIA guide on their website before submitting your request about the Master Death File.

The most recent archival records we have for death files are at this link on our website: <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=SB2046&bc=sb>. They span 1936-2007. In the future, you need to submit a FOIA request to NARA, please consult our website about how to make your FOIA request. You can find it at this link: [www.archives.gov/foia](http://www.archives.gov/foia). We found no record of earlier FOIA requests from you.

This completes the processing of your FOIA request to us.

If you are not satisfied with our action on this request, you have the right to file an administrative appeal within ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter via regular U.S. mail or email. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision. If you submit your appeal in writing, please address it to the Deputy Archivist of the United States (ND), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If you submit your appeal by e-mail please send it to [FOIA@nara.gov](mailto:FOIA@nara.gov), also addressed to the Deputy Archivist of the United States. Please be sure to explain why you believe this response does not meet the requirements of the FOIA. All correspondence should reference your case tracking number NGC19-095 and NGC19-096 and your FOIAonline tracking numbers.

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison Gary M. Stern for assistance at:

National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 3110  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
301-837-1750  
garym.stern@nara.gov

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is noted below:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road—OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
ogis@nara.gov  
ogis.archives.gov  
202-741-5770  
1-877-684-6448

Thank you for contacting the National Archives and Records Administration. I may also be reached directly at the number and email address below.

Sincerely,

Susan Gillett  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of General Counsel  
Tel: 301-837-3409  
Email: susan.gillett@nara.gov